

Circuit 1

Counties: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton

Age Requirement:

Under the age of sixteen years of age at the time the interview

Definition of Interview:

Any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Exceptions:

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. One interview allotted to HRS and law enforcement
2. One to the State Attorney office
3. One to the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the case

Location of Interview:

- Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview of the victim.
- When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview will be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

N/A

Deposition:

- Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.
- When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview will be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

Date of Administrative Order:

October 1, 1984

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge, M.C. Blanchard
- Current Judge: Chief Judge, Linda L. Nobles

Circuit 2

Counties: Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16 at the time of the interview

Definition of Interview:

Any procedure in which the victim is required or requested to provide a detailed factual account of the circumstances surrounding the allegation of abuse.

Exceptions:

- Information obtained for the purpose of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement and/or Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to assess the validity of complaint or the need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- Contacts with DCF legal, victim services, (sexual assault/domestic violence) counselors, guardians ad litem, or assistant state attorneys seeking to carry out responsibilities as designated by statute.
- Court testimony of the victim.
- Any initial contact by an agent or employee of the school system.

Number of Interviews:

1. One investigative interview may be conducted for the purposes of criminal delinquency and/or dependency proceedings.
2. A second interview may be conducted by the SAO and/or law enforcement, and may include DCF, victim services (sexual assault/domestic violence), or CPT for the purpose of clarifying and expanding any facts necessary for a determination as to filing of charges or petition.
3. A third interview may be conducted under the rules governing depositions. Counsel shall notice all parties including the guardian ad litem consistent with the applicable rule of procedure. Any additional discovery depositions will be governed by Rule 3.220, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rules 8.060 and 8.245, Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.
4. A fourth interview may be conducted by the office of the prosecuting attorney by the SAO or DCF as final preparation for trial.

Location of Interview:

All agencies involved in the investigation of the above enumerated statutes including law enforcement, DCF, State Attorney's Office (SAO), Child Protection Team (CPT), shall coordinate their efforts to facilitate this provision, so that only one investigative interview is conducted regardless of whether the investigation is for dependency, delinquency or criminal proceedings, or both. All efforts shall be made to limit the number of persons participating in the interviewing of the child no more than two. The interview shall be videotaped or recorded whenever possible to insure that other parties have the opportunity to see and hear the victim's statement.

Additional Interviews:

Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the court upon motion for good cause shown. Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

N/A

Protocol:

- All agencies involved in the investigation of the above enumerated statutes including law enforcement, DCF, State Attorney's Office (SAO), Child Protection Team (CPT), shall coordinate their efforts to facilitate this provision, so that only one investigative interview is conducted regardless of whether the investigation is for dependency, delinquency or criminal proceedings, or both.
- All efforts shall be made to limit the number of persons participating in the interviewing of the child no more than two. The interview shall be videotaped or recorded whenever possible to insure that other parties have the opportunity to see and hear the victim's statement.

Date of Administrative Order:

March 10, 2017

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom

Circuit 3

Counties: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor

Age Requirement:

- Under 16 years of age at the time of the interview
- A person with mental retardation as defined by Florida Statute

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW”, for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exception:

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement, or the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings.
2. There shall be one full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
3. There shall additionally be one full and complete pretrial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
4. There shall be one discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, subject to limitations (numbers 5 and 6 listed in the Administrative Order).

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem or State Attorney.
- Additional Interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 1.280(c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.22(h), of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.060 of the Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

- All agencies involved in the investigation shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision.
- All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.

Date of Administrative Order:

March 29, 1999

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge, Paul S. Bryan
- Current Judge: Chief Judge, Paul S. Bryan

Circuit 4

Counties: Clay, Duval, and Nassau

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16 at the time of the interview

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW,” for the purpose of this order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse, **but does not include:**

- The history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment
- Any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal proceedings.
2. There shall be one full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
3. There shall additionally be one full and complete pre-trial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
4. There shall be one discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, subject to the limitations provided below (please see Location of Interview and Additional Interviews).

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designed to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem or State Attorney.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 1.280 (c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.220 (h) of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.070 of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

None specified

Date of Administrative Order:

January 28, 1986

Judges:

- Order Signed by: Chief Judge John E. Santora
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Mark H. Mahon

Circuit 5

Counties: Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16 years at the time of the interview

Definition of Interview:

“Interview” for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide an account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the alleged abuse, including depositions.

Exceptions:

- An initial contact by law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families to assess the validity of an allegation or take protective measures on behalf of the victim, which shall be limited to one episode.
- Any history obtained by medical or mental health personnel for the purpose of medical or mental health examination, diagnosis or treatment, including but not limited to the Child Protection Team and its staff.

Number of Interviews:

1. The investigating law enforcement agency shall be allowed two interviews. At the first, the law enforcement agency shall notify, when practicable, the Florida Department of Children and Families and allow their participation as required by law. During the first interview, the law enforcement agency shall arrange for the videotaping and/or audio taping of the interview, when practicable. If the law enforcement agency deems it necessary to conduct a second interview, the agency shall notify the Office of the State Attorney and again notify the Department of Children and Families. All agencies involved in this second interview shall conduct such interview in cooperation with each other, making as minimal an impact on the victim as possible.
2. The Department of Children and Families shall be allowed up to four interviews with a victim: one initial investigative interview; a second investigative interview, if necessary; one pre-deposition preparation interview, if necessary, and one pre-trial preparation interview, if necessary. The Department shall conduct its investigative interviews with law enforcement, as enumerated in subsection “a” when possible. If law enforcement is not involved in the investigation, the Department shall arrange for the videotaping and/or audio taping of the interview when practicable.
3. The Office of the State Attorney shall be permitted up to three interviews with a victim: one initial investigative interview, which may occur in conjunction with law enforcement, as enumerated in subsection “a”; one pre-deposition preparation interview, if necessary, and one pre-trial preparation interview, if necessary.
4. The attorney representing the alleged offender in any criminal proceedings shall be allowed one interview.
5. The attorney representing the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) in any dependency proceeding shall be allowed one interview.

Location of Interview:

- The Guardian Ad Litem if one has been appointed shall be noticed for all interviews and contacts with the victim.
- Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim. If available, the interview shall take place in a room with décor and furnishings appropriate to the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.
- Interested parties and agencies shall endeavor to coordinate their effort so as not to unnecessarily duplicate interviews of the victim.
- Photo and physical lineups (unless conducted at the initial contact), polygraph examinations and hypnosis may be used only after specific court order.
- No additional interviews shall be allowed unless by court order with good cause shown. A party seeking additional interviews shall make an ex-parte petition to the Chief Judge of the Circuit. Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

Depositions shall be videotaped and/or audio taped, in a location with decor and furnishings appropriate to the victim where the camera and microphones are hidden from view when such facilities are available.

Protocols:

- The Guardian Ad Litem if one has been appointed shall be noticed for all interviews and contacts with the victim.
- Interested parties and agencies shall endeavor to coordinate their effort so as not to unnecessarily duplicate interviews of the victim.
- Photo and physical lineups (unless conducted at the initial contact), polygraph examinations and hypnosis may be used only after specific court order.

Date of Administrative Order:

September 24, 2014

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge Don F. Briggs
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Hale R. Stancill

Circuit 6

Counties: Pasco and Pinellas

Age Requirement:

Under 16 years of age

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW”, for the purposes of this Order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purpose of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or the need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- Any initial contact by an agent or employee of the school system.

Number of Interviews:

The number of interviews of such persons, absent exceptional circumstances, shall not exceed:

1. Two interviews for the purpose of determining whether or not a criminal act has occurred.
2. One pre-file or pre-indictment interview conducted by or on behalf of the Office of the State Attorney.
3. One discovery deposition conducted by the attorney for the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse complained of.
4. One pre-trial conference interview conducted by or on behalf of the Office of the State Attorney.

All agencies involved in the investigation or prosecution of cases governed by this Order shall coordinate their investigations to comply with the provisions of this Order.

Location of Interview:

Any interested party may, by written motion made to the Court setting forth exceptional circumstances, request the right to conduct additional interviews. Upon the granting of such a request the Court shall limit the scope of such interviews and the place and manner in which the same shall be conducted to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

Any interested party may, by written motion made to the Court setting forth exceptional circumstances, request the right to conduct additional interviews.

Deposition:

N/A

Protocols:

All agencies involved in the investigation or prosecution of cases governed by this Order shall coordinate their investigations to comply with the provisions of this Order.
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Date of Administrative Order:

January 20, 1986

Judges:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order signed by: Chief Judge, David F. Patterson▪ Current Judge: Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino |
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Circuit 7

Counties: Flagler, Putnam, St. John and Volusia
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Age Requirement:

Under the age of sixteen or who are mentally retarded

Definition of Interview:

N/A

Number of Interviews:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All law enforcement within the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties) shall, whenever possible, coordinate and consolidate the initial interviews of victims of violations of SS 794.011, 800.04, 827.03, or 847.0135(5), Florida Statutes, who is under the age of sixteen, or victims of ss 794.011, 800.02, 800.03, or 847.0135(5), who are mentally retarded, and whenever possible, shall record said interviews by audio and/or video.2. All subsequent interviews are limited to a maximum of two, unless permission is granted by the presiding judge for good cause shown, and all subsequent interviews shall be recorded by audio and/or video.3. The Department of Children and Families, other child protective agencies and their respective employees, agents, or contract providers, shall limit their interviews of said victims to a maximum of three, without further court order, and shall record said interviews by audio and/or video. |
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Location of Interview:

N/A

Additional Interviews:

N/A

Deposition:

Nothing in this order limits a judge in a specific case from considering further limitations upon application of any interested party pursuant to the provisions of ss 92.53, 92.55, Florida Statutes.
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Protocol:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nothing in this order limits a judge in a specific case from considering further limitations upon application of any interested party pursuant to the provisions.▪ All law enforcement within the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties) shall, whenever possible, coordinate and consolidate the initial interviews of victims of violations of who is under the age of sixteen, or victims who are mentally retarded, and whenever possible, shall record said interviews by audio and/or video. |
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Date of Administrative Order:

June 30, 2017

Judges:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order Signed by: Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins▪ Current Judge: Chief Judge Terence R. Perkins |
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Circuit 8

Counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW”, for the purposes of this order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement, or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings. All agencies involved in the investigation of violations ss794.11, ss800.04, or ss827.04, Florida Statutes, shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision. All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representative participating in the interviewing of the child.
2. There shall be one full and complete pre-trial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
3. There shall be additionally be one full and complete pretrial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designed to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victims custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem or state attorney.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

- There shall be one discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, subject to the limitation provided below.

- Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 1.280(c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.220(h), of the Florida rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.070 of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

- All agencies involved in the investigation shall coordinate their investigation to facilitate this provision.
- All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representation participating in the interviewing of the child.

Date of Administrative Order:

October 5, 2012

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge Robert E. Roundtree Jr.
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Toby S. Monaco

Circuit 9

Counties: Orange and Osceola

Age Requirement:

- Under 16 years of age
- Mental retardation

Definition of Interview:

N/A

Number of Interviews:

- All law enforcement agencies in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida shall whenever possible coordinate and consolidate the initial and subsequent interviews of an alleged victim.
- In order to carry out the intent of section 914.16, Florida Statutes, Orange and Osceola Counties have established Children's Advocacy Centers which coordinate and cooperate in the response and investigation of victim interviews covered by section 914.16, Florida Statutes.
- Each county has also established Sexual Assault Response Team, which includes the Children's Advocacy Centers as partner agencies. The Sexual Assault Response Teams have established protocols that require, to the extent possible, that only one interview be conducted of victims during the investigative stage of the case.
- Whenever possible initial examinations and interviews of such child abuse or sexual abuse victims shall be preserved by audio-visual equipment in order to prevent repetition through multiple interviews.

Location of Interview:

N/A

Additional Interviews:

Courts of appropriate jurisdiction may consider further limitations upon application of any interested party.

Depositions:

- Matters concerning defense discovery depositions shall be handled on a case by case basis by the court having jurisdiction of the case.
- Whenever possible, where there are pending juvenile, civil or criminal cases which arise from the same incident or sexual or child abuse, discovery depositions shall be coordinated by all interested parties.

Protocol:

- All law enforcement agencies in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida shall whenever possible coordinate and consolidate the initial and subsequent interviews of an alleged victim.
- In order to carry out the intent of section 914.16, Florida Statutes, Orange and Osceola Counties have established Children’s Advocacy Centers which coordinate and cooperate in the response and investigation of victim interviews covered by section 914.16, Florida Statutes.
- Each county has also established Sexual Assault Response Team, which includes the Children’s Advocacy Centers as partner agencies. The Sexual Assault Response Teams have established protocols that require, to the extent possible, that only one interview be conducted of victims during the investigative stage of the case.
- Whenever possible initial examinations and interviews of such child abuse or sexual abuse victims shall be preserved by audio-visual equipment in order to prevent repetition through multiple interviews.
- Whenever possible, where there are pending juvenile, civil or criminal cases which arise from the same incident or sexual or child abuse, discovery depositions shall be coordinated by all interested parties.
- Whenever possible initial examinations and interviews of such child abuse or sexual abuse victims shall be preserved by audio-visual equipment in order to prevent repetition through multiple interviews.

Date of Administrative Order:

July 11, 2008

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge, Belvin Perry Jr.
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Frederick J. Lauten

Circuit 10

Counties: Polk, Highland and Hardee

Age Requirement:

- Under the age of 16
- Mental retardation

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW,” for the purpose of this order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purpose of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment
- Initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families for the State of Florida (DCF), to assess the validity of the complaint or needed to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one (1) investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings. All agencies involved in the investigation of the above enumerated statutes shall coordinate their efforts to facilitate this provision, so that only one (1) investigative interview is conducted regardless of whether the investigation is for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both. All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.
2. There shall be only one (1) full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office, whether for dependency or criminal proceedings or both.

Location of Interview:

All interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designated to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- On a case-by-case basis, if necessary, there may be one (1) additional full and complete pre-trial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office whether for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both.
- Additional interviews may be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent or legal guardian, and the guardian-ad-litem, and the State Attorney. Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to insure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

- There shall be only one (1) discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative(s) of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, whether for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both, subject to the limitations provided.
- Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 1.280 (c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.220 (h), Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.070 of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

None Stated

Date of Administrative Order:

July 14, 2010

Judges:

- Order Signed by: Chief Judge J. David Langford
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Donald G. Jacobsen

Circuit 11

County: Miami Dade

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW”, for the purposes of this order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement, or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings. All agencies involved in the investigation of violations ss794.11, ss800.04, or ss827.04, Florida Statutes, shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision. All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.
2. There shall be one full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
3. There shall be additionally be one full and complete pre-trial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State.

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designed to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem or state attorney.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

- There shall be one discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, subject to the limitation provided below.
- Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of Rule 1.280(c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.220(h), of the Florida rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.070 of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

- All agencies involved in the investigation of violations, shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision.
- All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.

Date of Administrative Order:

May 30, 1985

Judges:

- Order signed by: Chief Judge Gerald T. Wetherington
- Current Judge: Chief Judge Soto Bertila

Circuit 12

Counties: Manatee, Sarasota and Desoto

Age Requirement:

- Under the age of 16
- A person with mental retardation

Definition of Interview:

For purposes of this Order, an “interview” means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- The actual court testimony of the victim.
- Therapy or counseling sessions conducted by a licensed mental health practitioner approved by the court.

Number of Interviews:

- Law enforcement, DCF and Child Protection Team: limited to a combined total of two (2).
- Office of the State Attorney: limited to a total of seven (7)
- One interview is permitted by the attorney representing the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse.

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and a manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- No additional interviews shall be allowed except by court order and with good cause shown. Any interested party may request an additional interview by filing a written motion with the Court having jurisdiction over the matter; in the motion, the party shall set forth the exceptional circumstances supporting the request. If the request is granted, the Court shall limit the scope of such interviews, including the place and the manner in which the interview is conducted in order to minimize the impact on the victim.
- If the court appoints a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or other advocate, the GAL or advocate shall be provided notice of all interviews of the victim.
- Parties and agencies shall coordinate their efforts so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of victim interviews, and shall use their best efforts to reduce the number of interview events.

Depositions:

N/A

Protocol:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If the court appoints a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or other advocate, the GAL or advocate shall be provided notice of all interviews of the victim.▪ Parties and agencies shall coordinate their efforts so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of victim interviews, and they use their best efforts to reduce the number of interview events. |
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Date of Administrative Order:

September 12, 2008

Judges:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order signed by Chief Judge: Lee E. Haworth▪ Current Chief Judge: Charles E. Williams |
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Circuit 13

Counties: Hillsborough

Age Requirement:

- Under 16 years of age
- A person with a developmental disability

Definition of Interview:

“Interview” means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment or an initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or DCF to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- If the assessment can be made without the necessity of obtaining a statement from the victim, such shall be the preferred procedure.
- “Interview” does not include the taking of a deposition.

Number of Interviews:

1. Two interviews by the investigating law enforcement agency including an initial interview by a specifically designated and trained child abuse investigator, and a follow-up interview by a specifically trained detective or a trained Children’s Justice Center interviewer only if necessary, and such additional interview being limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.
2. One interview by a member of the State Attorney’s Office Sexual Offender Division, plus a subsequent contact to prepare the victim for defense depositions, if scheduled, a subsequent contact to prepare the victim for trial testimony if the victim is to testify and any additional contacts necessary to address litigation issues.
3. One interview by DCF, unless such interview is conducted jointly with law enforcement.

Location of Interview:

- All interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim who is under the age of 16 or who is a person with a developmental disability.
- The interviews by law enforcement, the State Attorney’s Office, and DCF shall be held as soon as practical after notification of the alleged abuse.
- Recorded interviews should be conducted at the Children’s Justice Center or another appropriate facility as designated by the chief judge.

Additional Interviews:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Additional interviews may be allowed by order of the trial judge upon a showing of good cause.▪ Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:
All discovery depositions of victims or witnesses under the age of 16 taken pursuant to Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.22(h)(4) or Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.245(e) should be conducted at the Children's Justice Center.

Protocol:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The interviews by law enforcement, the State Attorney's Office, and DCF shall be held as soon as practical after notification of the alleged abuse.▪ Recorded interviews should be conducted at the Children's Justice Center or another appropriate facility as designated by the chief judge.

Date of Administrative Order:
September 15, 2005

Judges:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order Signed by Chief Judge: J. Rogers Padgett, Acting Chief Judge▪ Current Chief Judge: Ronald Ficarrota

Circuit 14

Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16 years

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW”, for the purposes of this order, means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for the purpose of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Initial contact with the victim by law enforcement, or the Department of Children and Families for the State of Florida (DCF), to assess the validity of the complaint or needed to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. There shall be one (1) investigative interview conducted for purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings. All agencies involved in the investigation of the above enumerated statutes shall coordinate their efforts to facilitate this provision, so that only one (1) investigative interview is conducted regardless of whether the investigation is for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both. All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.
2. There shall be one (1) full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office, whether for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both.
3. On a case by case basis, if necessary, there may be one (1) additional full and complete pre-trial interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office whether for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both.

Location of Interview:

All interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designated to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews may be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent or legal guardian, and the guardian-ad litem, and the State Attorney.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to insure minimal impact on the victim.

Deposition:

- There shall be one (1) discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative(s) of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, whether for dependency or criminal proceedings, or both, subject to the limitations.

Protocol:

None stated

Date of Administrative Order:

September 19, 2012

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: Hentz McClellan
- Current Chief Judge: Elijah Smiley

Circuit 15

County: Palm Beach

Age Requirement:

- Under 13 years of age
- Person with mental retardation at the time of the interview

Definition of Interview:

For purposes of this order, an “interview” is defined as any procedure in which the child victim is required to provide a factual; recitation of the circumstances surrounding the allegations of abuse.

Exceptions:

- Information obtained for the purpose of medical or psychological diagnosis for treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement and/or Florida Department of Children and Families to assess validity of complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- Contacts with DCF legal, victim services (sexual assault/domestic violence) counselors, guardian ad litem, or assistant state attorneys seeking to carry out responsibilities as designated by statute.
- Actual court testimony of victim.
- Re-contact with the victim for the purpose of expanding/clarifying a previous statement prior to the filing of formal charges.

Number of Interviews:

In accord with the foregoing and the need to act in the best interest of the child victims of abuse, it is ordered that no child victim of abuse shall be subject to more than four interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an incident of abuse except upon the order of the court. These interviews shall be as follows:

1. The first interview shall be conducted within a reasonable time for the validation of the complaint.
2. The second interview by law enforcement, with the State Attorneys approval, may occur prior to the filing of formal charges and may include DCF, Victim Services (sexual assault/domestic violence) or the Child Protection Team.
3. The third interview will be conducted under the rules of governing depositions.

Location of Interview:

- The (first) interview when feasible shall be held at a Child Protection Team facility in Palm Beach County.
- When applicable, this interview will be attended by law enforcement, a representative from DCF, Victim Services (sexual assault/domestic violence), the State Attorney’s Office, and the Child Protection Team.
- When applicable, DCF shall, prior to scheduling a forensic interview, contact the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction and coordinate a mutually agreeable date and time for both law enforcement and DCF to attend the forensic interview.
- All attending agencies shall meet prior to the interview and make reasonable efforts to coordinate and produce all necessary information in the course of that (the first) interview.

- To minimize the traumatic effects to the child, all interviews shall be conducted by no more than two persons.
- This interview shall be recorded whenever possible to ensure that other parties have the opportunity to hear the child's statement.

Additional Interviews:

- If necessary, law enforcement may meet with the victim for the purpose of expanding/clarifying any facts necessary.
- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Depositions:

The deposition shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim. Defense counsel shall notice all parties including the guardian ad litem consistent with Crim. Proc. Rule 3.22(h).

Protocol:

- When applicable, this interview will be attended by law enforcement, a representative from DCF, Victim Services (sexual assault/domestic violence), the State Attorney's Office, and the Child Protection Team.
- When applicable, DCF shall, prior to scheduling a forensic interview, contact the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction and coordinate a mutually agreeable date and time for both law enforcement and DCF to attend the forensic interview.
- All attending agencies shall meet prior to the interview and make reasonable efforts to coordinate and produce all necessary information in the course of that (the first) interview.
- To minimize the traumatic effects to the child, all interviews shall be conducted by no more than two persons.
- This interview shall be recorded whenever possible to ensure that other parties have the opportunity to hear the child's statement.

Date of Administrative Order:

July 2, 2012

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: Peter D. Blanc
- Current Chief Judge: Krista Marx

Circuit 16

County: Monroe

Age Requirement:

- Under age 16
- Person who have an intellectual disability.

Definition of Interview:

“Interview,” for the purposes of this order, means any procedure in which the child victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

History obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment nor any initial contact with the victim by law enforcement, or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

4. There shall be one investigative interview conducted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings. All agencies involved in the investigation of violations of Sections 794.11, 800.04, 827.03, or 827.04, Florida Statutes, shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision. All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.
5. There shall be one full and complete pre-file interview conducted by or on behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.
6. Additionally, there shall be one full and complete pretrial interview conducted on or behalf of the State Attorney’s Office.

Location of Interview:

Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner designed to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the victim.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon open motion for good cause shown, unless there are no objections to said interview by the victim’s custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem, or State Attorney.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Depositions:

- There shall be one discovery deposition permitted to be taken by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse, subject to the limitations provided.
- Nothing contained in this order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provision of Rule 1.280(c) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 3.220(h) of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 8.070 of the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Protocol:

- All agencies involved in the investigation of violations of Sections 794.11, 800.04, 827.03, or 827.04, Florida Statutes, shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision.
- All efforts shall be made to reduce the number of agency representatives participating in the interviewing of the child.

Date of Administrative Order:

December 13, 1994

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: J. Jefferson Overby
- Current Chief Judge: Mark H. Jones

Circuit 17

County: Broward

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16

Definition of Interview:

“Interview” for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the child victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse after the filing of formal charges. **This does not include:**

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim
- Nor the actual testimony itself

Exceptions:

- A history obtained for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim
- Nor the actual testimony itself

Number of Interviews:

1. No victim of abuse who falls within the age guideline of this order shall be required to submit no more than three interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an episode, except upon order of court.
2. The court intends that the three interviews be allowed to meet the needs of potential parties as follows:
 - One interview allotted to the investigating agency
 - One to the State Attorney
 - One to the legal representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse

Location of Interview:

- Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim.
- Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.
- When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview will be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interview shall be allowed only by order of the Court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Protocol:

Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.

Deposition:

N/A

Date of Administrative Order:

June 1, 1989

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: Miette K. Burnstein
- Current Chief Judge: Jack Tuter

Circuit 18

Counties: Brevard and Seminole

Age Requirement:

Under the age of 16

Definition of Interview:

“INTERVIEW,” for the purposes of this Order, means any procedure in which the child is required to provide and does provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- The history obtained for purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis, therapy, or treatment.
- Any initial contact with the child by law enforcement, an agent or employee of the school system or HRS to assess the validity of the complaint or the need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. Investigative agencies may conduct one full and complete investigative interview of the victim for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings.
 - All agencies involved in the investigation of violations of these sections shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision. If after diligent efforts to cooperate and schedule one joint interview, HRS is unable to attend the law enforcement interview, or law enforcement is unable to attend the HRS interview, the absent agency shall rely on the interview already conducted. Investigative deficits in said interview shall be reviewed with resolved by the Assistant State Attorney assigned to the case.
2. The investigative interview shall be preserved by audiotape or videotape, with a preference for videotaping the interview.
3. The State Attorney’s Office may conduct one full and complete pre-filing interview of the victim.
4. The State Attorney’s Office additionally may conduct one full and complete pre-trial interview of the victim.
5. Should the case actually be set for trial, the State Attorney’s Office additionally may conduct one full and complete trial preparation interview of the victim.
6. The victim’s advocate shall be permitted to conduct an interview of the child victim only by order of the trial judge upon good cause shown

Location of Interview:

Interviews and depositions shall be conducted in a setting and manner designed to minimize the traumatic effect of the interview on the child.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of the trial judge upon motion for good cause shown, unless there is no objection to said interview from the child’s custodial parent, legal guardian, guardian ad litem, and Assistant State Attorney assigned to the case.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope as much as possible to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Depositions:

- There shall be only one discovery deposition of the victim permitted for the purposes of criminal and dependency proceedings.
- Counsel for the defendant(s) and for the respondent(s) in said proceedings shall coordinate their depositions to facilitate this provision.
- The requirement for joint depositions shall apply only to pending criminal or dependency cases where discovery has been requested prior to the date of the deposition.
- Nothing contained in this Order shall prevent the trial court from limiting the discovery deposition pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, or ordering such further relief as may be deemed appropriate upon good cause shown.

Protocols:

- All agencies involved in the investigation of violations of these sections shall coordinate their investigations to facilitate this provision.
- If after diligent efforts to cooperate and schedule one joint interview, HRS is unable to attend the law enforcement interview, or law enforcement is unable to attend the HRS interview, the absent agency shall rely on the interview already conducted.

Date of Administrative Order:

June 25, 1991

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: O.H. Eaton Jr.
- Current Chief Judge: John Harris

Circuit 19

Counties: Indian River, Martin, Saint Lucie and Okeechobee

Age Requirement:

Victim is under the age of 16

Definition of Interview:

“Interview” for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide an account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the abuse.

Exceptions:

- A history obtained by a medical or psychological professional for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- An initial contact with the victim by law enforcement or the Florida Department of Rehabilitative Services to assess the validity of the complaint or need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.
- This “initial contact” shall not include activity generally considered as trial preparation and the contact shall be limited to one episode of time without continuance.

Number of Interviews:

1. No victim of child abuse under the statutes listed above who falls within the age guideline of this order shall be required to submit to more than three interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an episode of child abuse, except upon order of court as provided below.
2. The three interviews allotted to meet the needs of potential parties are as follows:
 - One interview by HRS and law enforcement jointly held
 - One by the State Attorney
 - One by the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse

Location of Interview:

- Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and manner intended to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim.
- Stenographic, sound, or TV recordings may be under the applicable rules.
- Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.
- When more than one party or agency participates in an allotted interview, the interview shall be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties unless a conflict of interest exists, in which case the Court may authorize more than one person to conduct the interview.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure minimal impact on the victim.

Depositions:
N/A

Protocols:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stenographic, sound, or TV recordings may be under the applicable rules.▪ Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.▪ When more than one party or agency participates in an allotted interview, the interview shall be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties unless a conflict of interest exists, in which case the Court may authorize more than one person to conduct the interview.

Date of Administrative Order:
January 10, 1985

Judges:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Order signed by Chief Judge: C. Pfeiffer Trownridge▪ Current Chief Judge: Elizabeth Metzger

Circuit 20

Counties: Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry

Age Requirement:

Who is under 16 years of age must submit to law enforcement or discovery purposes.

Definition of Interview:

“Interview” for the purposes of this order means any procedure in which the victim is required to provide a detailed account or demonstration of the nature and circumstances of the child or sexual abuse.

Exceptions:

- A history obtained by any health care professional for the purposes of medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment.
- Initial contact with the victim by law enforcement for the purposes of taking a complaint.
- Initial contact with the victim by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (“HRS”) to assess the validity of the complaint or the need to take protective measures on behalf of the victim.

Number of Interviews:

1. No victim of child abuse or sexual abuse who falls within the age guideline of this order shall be required to submit no more than three interviews in the course of investigation and prosecution of an episode, except upon order of court.
2. The court directs that the three interviews be allotted to meet the needs of potential parties as follows:
 - One interview collectively allotted to HRS, law enforcement, and the child protection team
 - One interview allotted to the State Attorney
 - One interview allotted to the representative of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse.

Location of Interview:

- Interviews shall be conducted in a setting and in a manner designed to minimize the traumatic effects of the interview on the victim.
- Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.
- When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview shall be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview.

Additional Interviews:

- Additional interviews shall be allowed only by order of court upon motion for good cause shown.
- Additional interviews shall be limited in scope to assure the minimum possible impact on the victim.

- A prosecuting attorney who intends to call a victim to testify at trial shall have, with the consent of the Guardian Ad Litem or other advocate appointed by the Court, the right to additional interviews for the purpose of trial preparation.
- The attorney for HRS in any dependency proceeding who intends to call a victim to testify at trial shall have, with the consent of the Guardian Ad Litem or other advocate appointed by the Court, the right to additional interviews for the purpose of trial preparation.

Deposition:

When a child is a witness or a victim in both a criminal and dependency case, the representative(s) of the person(s) alleged to be responsible for the abuse will conduct only one deposition of the victim.

Protocols:

- Interested parties or agencies shall make every effort to gain all necessary information in the course of the same interview.
- When more than one party or agency participates in a single interview, the interview shall be conducted by a single person who shall address the concerns of all parties in the course of the interview

Date of Administrative Order:

April 14, 1993

Judges:

- Order signed by Chief Judge: Thomas S. Reese
- Current Chief Judge: Michael T. McHugh